

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02915 01 OF 02 210159Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
-----210220Z 035630 /66

P 202313Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3196
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS(BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 02915

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CA
SUBJECT: MP JACK HORNER SWITCHES TO LIBERAL PARTY

1. SUMMARY - RUMORED FOR WEEKS, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) MEMBER JACK HORNER'S SWITCH TO LIBERAL PARTY COMPLETED WITH HORNER ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 20. CAPPING EXTENSIVE POLITICAL INTRIGUE INCLUDING REPORTED ENTICEMENT OF A CABINET POST AND DISAGREEMENT WITH PC LEADER JOE CLARK, HORNER MOVE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE FOR EFFECT ON PROTAGONISTS; THE LIBERALS, PCS, CLARK AND HORNER HIMSELF. SOME MAINTAIN IT UNQUALIFIED PLUS FOR LIBERALS. OTHERS ARGUE IT COULD BACKFIRE ON BOTH HORNER AND LIBERALS. VOTERS OVER TIME WILL PROVIDE ANSWER. END SUMMARY.

2. ENDING SEVERAL WEEKS OF UNCERTAINTY, MP JACK HORNER, FORMERLY A LEADER OF RIGHT WING OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) PARTY AND A PROMINENT WESTERN MEMBER, ANNOUNCED APRIL 20 HE WAS RESIGNING FROM PCS AND JOINING LIBERALS.

3. BACKGROUND OF SWITCH REPRESENTS TANGLED WEB OF POLITICAL INTRIGUE. BRIEFLY, HORNER HAS LONG BEEN MAVERICK IN PC PARTY. HE WAS CONSISTENT CRITIC OF FORMER PC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02915 01 OF 02 210159Z

LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD. HORNER'S STAUNCH CONSERVATISM CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH STANFIELD'S MODERATION AND HORNER OPPOSED STANFIELD'S ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH SOME PC CREDIBILITY IN FRENCH CANADA.

4. ALTHOUGH HORNER WAS BEATEN BY JOE CLARK FOR PC LEADERSHIP, IT APPEARED UNTIL RECENTLY THE TWO WERE WORKING WELL

TOGETHER. HORNER, AN UNUSUALLY BRIGHT MP, APPEARED HAPPY AND WELL-QUALIFIED AS PC SHADOW MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT.

5. SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE COMMONS EASTER RECESS, LIBERAL REPS SOUNDED OUT HORNER ON POSSIBLE SWITCH TO LIBERAL PARTY. CLAIMING PC LEADER CLARK HAD RENEGED ON PROMISE

TO ASSURE HORNER "SAFE SEAT" IN NEXT FEDERAL ELECTIONS, HORNER STATED PUBLICLY HE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING OFFER, ADDING TO BROKEN PROMISE CHARGE LOFTY TALK ABOUT WANTING TO SERVE IN GOVERNMENT DURING DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR NATION.

6. SHORTLY BEFORE EASTER BREAK, PM TRUDEAU HAD HORNER TO DINNER AND SUBSEQUENTLY CLARK STRIPPED HORNER OF SHADOW MINISTER DUTIES.

7. ANNOUNCING DECISION TO SWITCH PARTIES, HORNER MENTIONED HIS INTEREST IN A CABINET PORTFOLIO, POSSIBLY TRANSPORT. THIS IN KEEPING WITH EARLIER RUMORS THAT PORTFOLIO DANGLED BEFORE HIM AS INCENTIVE TO SWITCH.

8. HORNER HAS CLOSE FOLLOWING OF ABOUT FIVE OTHER MPS BUT THERE NO INDICATION YET THAT OTHERS WILL SWITCH.

9. COMMENT: EFFECT OF HORNER MOVE ON PROTAGONISTS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE AT PRESENT. ONE CLOSE OBSERVER, A PROMINENT PC MEMBER, EXPRESSED VIEW TO DCM THAT SWITCH WAS UNQUALIFIED PLUS FOR TRUDEAU AND LIBERALS. IT GIVES THEM, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 02915 01 OF 02 210159Z

HE SAID, A STRONG BASE IN ALBERTA, ALL OF WHOSE FEDERAL SEATS WERE PREVIOUSLY PC; ACCESS TO ADMINISTRATION OF ALBERTA PREMIER LOUGHEED (HORNER'S BROTHER IS ALBERTA'S DEPUTY PREMIER AND TRANSPORT MINISTER); AND POSSIBLY A STRONG AND CAPABLE MINISTER FROM THE WEST SHOULD HORNER TAKE TRANSPORT OR SOME OTHER PORTFOLIO. FINALLY, IT PROMINENTLY FEATURES PCS AS DISORGANIZED AND PC LEADER JOE CLARK AS NOT IN CONTROL OF HIS CAUCUS.

10. ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CASE CAN, HOWEVER, BE MADE. HAD THE SWITCH BEEN CARRIED OFF NEATLY AND QUICKLY, LIBERALS WOULD HAVE GAINED THROUGH APPEARANCE OF DISCHANTED WESTERNER RALLYING RESOLUTELY TO THEIR CAUSE. AS IT TURNED OUT, HORNER VACILLATED OVER EXTENDED PERIOD, WAS STRIPPED OF PC PARTY POWER, AND FINALLY DRAGGED SELF INTO LIBERAL CAMP. FURTHER, IF HE GIVEN A MINISTRY, SOME BONA FIDE LIBERALS LIKELY TO BE MIFFED. TRANSPORT MINISTER OTTO LANG HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY INDICATED HE DOES NOT INTEND TO LEAVE THAT POSITION.

11. IMAGE OF JOE CLARK AS NOT IN CONTROL OF HIS CAUCUS
MAY NOT TAKE HOLD. ONCE HORNER HINTED PUBLICLY HE MIGHT
SWITCH, CLARK TOOK TOUGH, DETERMINED LINE WITH HIM.
WHOLE EPISODE MAY HAVE HAD UNEXPECTED EFFECT OF BOOSTING
CLARK IMAGE AS FIRM LEADER WHO CAN KEEP NOTORIOUSLY
FACTIONAL CAUCUS IN LINE.

12. SINCE HORNER MOVE SO UNUSUAL AND LOADED WITH POLITI-
CAL NUANCE, AVERAGE VOTER PROBABLY QUITE BEWILDERED AT
PRESENT AND ONLY TIME WILL SORT OUT WHO WINS AND WHO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02915 02 OF 02 210158Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W

-----210219Z 035613 /66

P 202313Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3197

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS(BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 02915

LOSES FROM THIS SWITCH. HORNER'S SEAT WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL-
LY REDISTRICTED AND, EVEN BEFORE HIS DEFECTION TO LIBERALS,
PUNDITS WERE NOT CONFIDENTLY PREDICTING OUTCOME. ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY SCHISMS, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA02915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0088
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770438/aaaabgna.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6314b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2748687
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MP JACK HORNER SWITCHES TO LIBERAL PARTY
TAGS: PFOR, CA, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, (HORNER, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6314b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009